

- medium to produce a biomass of ciliate cells;
- (ii) harvesting said culture medium containing the produced biomass at an extraction rate of about 0.1 to about 12 times said volume per day; and
 - (iii) replacing the harvested culture medium containing the biomass with complex axenic aqueous culture medium, so as to maintain a continuous fermentation.
23. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the medium contains at least one phosphate source selected from the group consisting of potassium phosphate and potassium dihydrogen phosphate.
25. The fermentation process as claimed in any one of claims 15-24, wherein the medium contains killed biomass of feed organisms for ciliates.
26. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the ciliate biomass is separated off from the harvested culture medium by centrifugation and/or tangential filtration and/or microfiltration and/or sedimentation and/or flotation.
27. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the ciliate biomass comprises a biogenous substance selected from the group consisting of: peptides, proteins, enzymes, fatty acids, lipids, polysaccharides, nucleic acids, secondary metabolites and polymers.

The amendments to the claims and specification are shown in bracket-underline format in Exhibit A, attached herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 17-27 remain pending. Claims 15, 16, 23 and 25-27 have been amended. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in original claims 1-14, as well as throughout the specification. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has stated that claims 15-27 are free of the prior art and would be allowable upon resolution of all 35 U.S.C. § 112 issues.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph